

12 encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or
13 low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input
14 results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

1 5. (Amended) In a computer system having a processor coupled to a bus, a
2 computer readable memory unit coupled to said bus and having stored therein a
3 computer program that when executed by said processor causes said computer
4 system to implement a method of reducing sinusoidal artifact generation in a
5 vocoder, said method comprising the steps of:
6 a) receiving a determined input energy threshold value below which a
7 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated
8 by said vocoder; and
9 b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than
10 said input energy threshold value, using a selection process to such that said
11 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector from is not continuously
12 generated;
13 wherein the input signal comprises a plurality of subframes, the subframes
14 encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or
15 low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input
16 results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

1 9. (Amended) A computer system comprising:
2 a processor;

3 an address/data bus coupled to said processor;
4 a computer readable memory coupled to communicate with said
5 processor, said processor for performing the vocoder sinusoidal artifact
6 generation reduction steps of:
7 a) receiving a determined input energy threshold value below which a
8 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated
9 by said vocoder; and
10 b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than
11 said input energy threshold value, using a selection process to such that said
12 suspected noise-inducing codebook excitation vector from is not continuously
13 generated;
14 wherein the input signal comprises a plurality of subframes, the subframes
15 encoded at half-rate or greater, at least a portion of the subframes have a zero or
16 low-level input, and each of the subframes having the zero or low-level input
17 results in a randomized selection of a codebook excitation vector.

1 13. (Amended) A method of reducing sinusoidal artifact generation in a vocoder,
2 said method comprising the steps of:
3 a) determining an input energy threshold value below which a suspected
4 noise-inducing codebook excitation vector is expected to be generated by said
5 vocoder; and
6 b) provided an input signal is received having an energy value lower than
7 said input energy threshold value, using a selection process to such that said